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**VITALITY IN FERNS.**—*Polypodium incanum* has been called the "Resurrection Fern" on account of its wonderful vitality, but our common *P. vulgare* appears to be no less tenacious of life. In November, 1876, as an experiment, I threw a plant of this latter species under a bench where it remained in a perfectly dry state, and subject to the warm atmosphere of a heated room, until late in April, 1877—a period of more than five months. It had become so dry and shriveled that it did not seem possible for any life to exist, yet under the influence of frequent rains it soon began to start and is now growing moderately.

Just how long life may be retained under such conditions as those to which this plant was subjected would seem to me to be an interesting subject for inquiry, and one that might lead to useful results in the transportation of certain plants.

It may not be out of place in this connection to state that last spring I took from some pressed herbarium specimens of *Trichomanes Petersii* sent to me a short time previously by Mr. Peters—I do not know how long they had been collected, but presume for a short time only—a plant and placed it under a bell glass. In a very few days it began to straighten up its tiny fronds and is now living and growing.—GEO. E. DAVENPORT, *Boston, Aug. 3, 1877.*

**ADIANTUM CAPILLUS-VENERIS.**—In a private letter Mr. Davenport makes the following statement in reference to this fern: "It might be an interesting fact to state that I have succeeded in cultivating this species from Utah in the open garden and carried my plant safely through the long severe winter of 1876-7 without any other protection than some loose brush thrown over it. The plant was set out in May, 1876, in some rock work by the side of a little brook, and had an open southern exposure. It grew finely all through the year, and proved itself hardy by surviving our last severe winter, and is now a fine, compact, healthy plant."—J. M. C.

**NOTES FROM SOUTH WESTERN VIRGINIA.**—Mr. Howard Shriver has just visited New River, a most interesting locality, and writes as follows: "I found *Cedronella* in a new spot at Carter's and Forney's (*Allisonia* C. H.). I also found at Carter's abundance of *Pyrrularia oleifera*, but the blooms had nearly all fallen, leaving only one plant, with one pear in an unripe state. The plants seemed flourishing enough, so that I was at a loss to determine whether the failure to fruit resulted from the excessive drought, or from late frosts, which cut garden plants badly as well as some wild ones, or from some other cause. The flowers came several at a time and regularly dropped, until many stems were terminated by a single flower at the time of my arrival.

*Halesia tetraptera* had gone out of bloom, but the trees had made plenty of fruit, which was then about a quarter of its full size. *Chionanthus Virginica* was nearly out of bloom. The shrubs were found in abundance all along the river. *Ptelea trifoliata* lined the river shores for several miles and was in full bloom. So was *Celastrus scandens*. A plant much resembling *Phacelia parviflora* appeared sparingly on the shore. It does not answer satisfactorily to the above name and may be a variety. *Sedum ternatum* abounded, but I saw not a single *S. Nevii*, which abounds at *Allisonia* along with *S. ternatum*. I found here for the second time *Aspidium Goldianum*, Hook, and *Cystopteris fragilis*, Bernh., also *Asplenium angustifolium*, Mx. While sitting on the bank of New River with Forney, I desired him without moving to pass to me all the ferns he could reach, which were as follows: *Adiantum pedatum*, *Asplenium Trichomanes*, *Asplenium ebeneum*, *Aspidium acrostichoides*, var. *incisum*, *Cystopteris fragilis*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, *Woodsia obtusa*, *Osmunda Claytoniana*, and one or two others of which I am not certain, perhaps, *Cystopteris bulbifera*. I also found elsewhere, *Polypodium vulgare*, *Pteris aquilina*, *Pellaea atropurpurea*, *Asplenium Ruta-muraria*, *Cumtisorus rhizophyllus*, *Phegopteris hexagonoptera*, *Aspidium marginale*, *Botrychium Virginicum*,

which about completes the list of New River at Carter's Ferry. At that date (June 2-13) *Phlox subulata* had gone out of bloom, also *Alsine stricta* and *Dianthus Armeria*. *Ruellia (strepens?)* was not yet in bloom, *Baptisia australis* in full flower, *Draba ramossissima* in bloom, *D. verna* in seed. *Nepeta Glechoma* was in infinite profusion, but miles of country produced not a single anther cross, all was our sturdy typical Wytheville plant. I found some huge leaved plants, but agree with Mr. Forney that all *large leaved ones are flowerless!* *Rhus aromatica* was out of bloom, the fruit already turning red. *Spiranthes cernua* was all along the shore, *Iris cristata* and *Phlox reptans* both almost out of bloom, *Menispermum Canadense* in full flower, some vines with good fruit, as good to the taste as an old grape. The most beautiful plant I met was that splendid ornament of the rocky cliffs *Heuchera*, with its dark green, mottled, or purple leaves. All cliffs are beautified by it, usually along with the spray of *Cystopteris*, or the festoons of *Aristolochia Siphon* (in flower), or the beautiful *Ampelopsis*. *Brunella*, *Pentstemon*, *Castilleja*, were all in bloom, also *Allium cernuum*, *Sisyrinchium*, *Aplectrum*, *Liparis*, *Spiraea Aruncus*, *Medeola* (with 11 leaves), *Arisæma Dracontium*, *Kalmia*, *Rhododendron maximum* was out of bloom, *R. Catawbiense* not yet in bloom. *Pachystima Canbyi* at New River and *Allisonia* had neither flower nor fruit, but I had gathered a few good sized fruits at Wytheville before I left town (June 2). *Uvularia grandiflora* and *perfoliata* were both in fruit, the former abundant, the latter rather rare. At Carter's we met with a Sycamore 24 feet in circumference, with two of its limbs, one springing out of the north, the other of the south side, approaching each other on the east side and *grafted together*. The tree is hollow and is at times used by travelers as a camping place. While there I found a family of pigs in possession of it.

All the *Aquilegia* I have met with is small in flower and in height, except those I found on New River and in Pulaski County. On these plants, four or five feet high, the flowers were correspondingly huge, measuring nearly two inches. Is the prevailing small variety the common plant, or those very rare ones which are large in size of flower and stem? The flowers are scarlet without and yellow within. To my mind there are three varieties: first, these coarse, heavy giants with dark red flowers; second, our plant at Wytheville, a foot and a half high with intermediately delicate, divaricate branches, and flowers of brighter and prettier hue and more delicate structure than No. 1; third, a diminutive variety a foot high, but oftener under that measure, where the yellow interior led me at first to suppose I had a yellow variety, but it was merely a preponderance of the inner yellow, the exterior being the ordinary red or scarlet. Nos. 2 and 3 inhabit steep hills, or cliff faces, or the upper face and clefts of rocks. No. 1 inhabits deep shady woods, or fence corners on the level shores of New River in fine, rich, deep mold, far removed from the habitat of Nos. 2 and 3."

**PLANTAGO MAJOR.**—While botanizing this summer I was very much struck with a large patch of common Plantain. The plants were in a moist spot which seemed most favorable for their development and hundreds of them were standing so close that the ground was completely matted with their large leaves. Three peculiarities at once struck my attention. All the plants had coarsely toothed leaves, branching spikes, and were two or three feet in height. Upon referring to the books I find that the toothed leaves and long stems occasionally occur, and the GAZETTE has already recorded some branching spikes noted by Mr. N. Coleman and Mr. I. C. Martindale. Other patches have since been found and the coarse teeth are invariably present, the branching spikes and great length of scape and spike not always. Neither Dr. Gray nor Dr. Chapman give any measurements. Dr. Beck gives scape 8-12 inches and spike 2-6 inches, while Prof. Wood comes nearer the facts in putting the scape 1-3 feet and the spike 5-20 inches. I measured five specimens that I had brought in, and I had not taken the